HEALTH
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Medical Officer's Report.

"The Benhill Press," 7 Horse Fair, Rugeley.

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TO THE

Rugeley Urban District Council

RUGELEY.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report for 1942.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified and doubtless, two causative factors of this increase are:—

(1) Interference with ventilation of the home during black-out hours.

(2) Overcrowding.

The general standard of nutrition has not in my opinion deteriorated.

Vital statistics are very satisfactory. The birth rate is considerably higher than the rate for the Country as a whole, while the death rate is lower. The infantile Mortality rate is remarkably low, viz., 24, as compared with 49 for the whole country.

The house shortage is very acute and should have prior attention over other Public Health measures.

A considerable number of women now go to work in factories in neighbouring towns. The Day Nursery established January, 1942, has an average attendance of ten ; and is most useful for some of these mothers.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health.—C. N. SMITH, M.C., M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H., who is also Assistant County Medical Officer to the Staffordshire County Council, and Medical Officer of Health to the Tutbury Rural District Council.

Sanitary Inspector.—J. T. G. CRADDOCK, C.S.I.B., C.F.I., who is also Collector of the Council's Rents.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area of the District	2882 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population, 1941 ...	7,996
Rateable value	£33,175
Sum represented by a penny rate	£128
Number of inhabitated houses, end of 1942	2,220

Vital Statistics

	Total	M	F
Live Births	162	69	93
Legitimate	156	64	92
Illegitimate	6	5	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, 20.02.
England and Wales ... ... 15.8.

	Total	M	F
Still Births	8	5	3
Still Births (Illegitimate) ...	–	–	–

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population, 1.00. For England and Wales, 0.54.
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 births (Live and Still), 47.

	Total	M	F
Deaths	84	44	40

Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, 10.5
England and Wales, 11.6

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	24
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	25
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	Nil
For England and Wales Infant Mortality is	49
Deaths from Cancer	11
Deaths from Measles	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil
Deaths from Puerperal Cases	Nil

Drainage and Sewerage

The scheme for sewering for the parish of Brereton has been held up owing to the war, and trouble arises from pollution of a stream by cesspools.

Water Supply

The Council obtain their water supply in bulk from the South Staffordshire Water Co. The quantity and quality have been uniformly satisfactory.

Prevention and Control over Infectious Diseases

The Isolation Hospital of the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board, situated at Lichfield, has given excellent service throughout the year, and has undoubtedly justified its establishment. I am indebted to its Medical Superintendent for giving me the fullest information about doubtful cases.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The effort to get as many children as possible immunised has continued throughout the year, and I must acknowledge the vital help given by Teachers and Medical Practitioners in furthering propaganda.

Every fourth week at the Infant Welfare Centre throughout the year, a session has been held for this purpose, and also sessions held at all the schools as required.

The figures as shown in a return to the Ministry of Health at the end of the year can be considered very satisfactory.

	Under 5 yrs.	5-15	Total
(1) No. of children who completed the full course of Immunisation between June 1st and December 31st, 1942 ...	171	242	413
(2) Percentage of child population considered immunised at December 31st, 1942	70%	80%	

Three children who were known to have complete immunisation at least 12 weeks previously were notified as cases of Diphtheria. They were mild cases, and doubtless would have suffered severely had they not been immunised.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1942

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	12	8	1
Diphtheria	26	26	2
Measles	83	0	2
Whooping Cough	17	0	0
Enteric Fever	1	0	0
Pneumonia	9	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia	1	0	0

Analysis of Infectious Diseases classified according to age.

Age Groups	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-35	36-45
Scarlet Fever		1					6	2	1	2	
Diphtheria		1		1	2	2	7	7	1	3	2
Measles	4	8	6	10	12	25	22		1		
Whooping Cough ...	3	2	2	2		3	4				

Tuberculosis

At the end of 1942 there were 64 cases on the Register.

MALES		FEMALES	
Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
24	15	11	14

New Cases and Mortality, 1942.

Age periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1-5	2		1	2				
6-15	1	1	3	2				
16-25	1	1		1				
26-35	1	1				1		
36-45	2			1				1
46-55								
56-65						1		
over 65								
Totals	7	3	4	6		2		1

1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	8		
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	14		
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers premises)	0		
Total	22	nil	nil

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—*	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	0	0
Other nuisances	0	0
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	1	1
Total	1	1

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES N. SMITH,
Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES		
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...		
2 Cerebro-spinal fever		1
3 Scarlet fever		
4 Whooping cough		
5 Diphtheria	1	1
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...		2
7 Other forms of tuberculosis diseases ...		
8 Syphilis		
9 Influenza		2
10 Measles		2
11 Acute Polio-Wyelitis		
12 Acute Inf-Encephalitis		1
13 Cancer of Buccal Cavity M. Heart F...		2
14 Cancer of Duodenum and Stomach ...	3	
15 Cancer of Breast		3
16 Cancer of other sites...	2	1
17 Diabetes	1	2
18 Intra-Cranial Vascular Legions ...	5	7
19 Heart disease	8	3
20 Other diseases of circulatory system ...	1	1
21 Bronchitis	1	2
22 Pneumonia	4	1
23 Other respiratory diseases		
24 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	
25 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...		
26 Appendicitis		1
27 Other digestive diseases	3	2
28 Nephritis	2	
29 Puerperal and post abortive sepsis ...		1
30 Other maternal causes		
31 Premature birth		1
32 Congenital mal. birth injuries... ...		
33 Suicide		
34 Road traffic accidents	3	
35 Other violent causes	5	1
36 All other causes	4	3
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above).		
Smallpox		
Poliomyelitis		
Polioencephalitis		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Total	1	3
Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Legitimate ...	1	3
Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Illegitimate ...		
Live Births — Total	69	93
Live Births — Legitimate	64	92
Live Births — Illegitimate	5	1
Stillbirths — Total	5	3
Stillbirths — Legitimate	5	3
Stillbirths — Illegitimate		
Population	7996	

Report of Sanitary Inspector.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Twelfth Annual Report dealing with the work carried out in the Health Department during 1942.

Closet Accommodation

The Town area is mostly sewered ; and of the 1,650 houses in this area, only eleven have not been converted to the water carriage system. There are cases in the district of closets having no flushing apparatus.

A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for the proper sewering of the Brereton area. In this area are 248 privies, and 131 water-closets to cesspools. At Etching Hill and Hednesford Road are 131 houses, sixty of which have water-closets to cesspools.

Nuisances have again arisen during the year from the overflowing of the Cesspools at Hednesford Road ; and in my opinion the sewering of this area is desirable.

Public Cleansing

(a) **Dry House Refuse.**—The whole of the refuse of the district is removed by the Council's workmen in two covered vehicles.

(b) **Contents of Privies, Cesspools, etc.**—This is conveyed from the premises in a special Sludge cart and disposed of for manurial purposes.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—During the year one Council House was found to be infested. The Council's workmen disinfested it by the following methods:—All picture moulding, skirting, boarding, etc., was removed and sprayed at intervals. All defective plaster, nail holes, etc., were cut out ; and the back of the boarding, the plaster, furniture, nail holes, etc., were sprayed with insecticide. The insecticide we used was Bo No. A spray is left with the tenant for frequent spraying. The workmen call after one month to repeat the spraying, make good the plaster, and replace or renew necessary woodwork. Only distemper or paint is allowed on the walls. The tenant is given instructions to notify any reinfestation, and calls are made at intervals to see that the house is kept clean. The premises of prospective Council house tenants are examined, and, if infested, we endeavour to disinfest the house and furniture by the method described above, before the removal of the tenant to a Council house.

Swimming Baths

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in the area.

Shops Acts

The Shops' Inspector has been working in conjunction with the Health Department in regard to the sanitary conveniences, ventilation, etc.

Sanitary Inspection of District

Number of houses visited during the year, either in connection with outbreaks of Infectious Disease, or in course of investigating complaints, or in carrying out a systematic survey ...	1432
Number of Final Notices issued	70
Number of Final Notices complied with	68
Number of Informal Notices issued	142
Number of Informal Notices complied with	72

Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in above Notices

Drains and Water Closets amended in construction and/or cleansed	50
Dwelling Houses needing repair	9
Dwelling Houses Overcrowded	0
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	5
Scavenging	34
Offensive accumulations	9
Other matters	4
Removal of Caravan Dwellers	0
Shops Acts, Sanitary Conveniences, etc.	2
Cesspools emptied, etc.	12
Burst Water Piping	4
New Water Service	4
Spouting	8
Pump	1

Infectious Diseases

Number of Rooms disinfected	49
Number of Schools disinfected	0
Number of Beds disinfected	53

Smoke Abatement

No action taken or found necessary.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations

The Council have Bye-Laws for Common Lodging Houses. There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district. There is a Tannery in the district. There are no underground sleeping places in the district. There are no Bye-Laws for: Houses-let-in-Lodgings, tents, vans, sheds, etc., offensive trades, or Lodgings and accommodation for Hop pickers.

Schools

In Rugeley town the sanitary conveniences are on the water carriage system. In the added area there is no sewer available and the schools have earth closets which are emptied every week. The water supply to all the schools is received from the Council's mains.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Housing

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts	30
	Number of inspections made for that purpose	79
(2)	Number of Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	1
	Number of inspections made for that purpose	4
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	0

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defected dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 2

3. Action under Statutory powers.

A.—Proceedings under Housing Act, 1930, Sections 17, 18 and 23.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served and requiring repairs	0
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:	
	(a) By owners	
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Formal Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
(2)	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:	
	(a By owners	9
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

c.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	0
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which the Council accepted undertakings from the owners not to let them for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses demolished. They were houses in respect of which owners had given undertakings not to relet	0

4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

(a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1936	58
(ii) Number of families living therein	58
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	370½
(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	14

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply. 59 visits have been paid to farms and dairies ; and the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Orders enforced. Nine informal notices were served and complied with.
There are eighteen Cowkeepers and Dairymen residing in the district, and ten Retail Purveyors, whose dairies are outside our district. The Staffordshire County Council carry out the sampling and examination of milk for Bacterial Content and for tubercle bacilli.

(b) Meat and other foods.

Number of visits to Slaughterhouses	16
Number of visits to Butchers' Shops, Grocery and Vegetable Shops, Fish Shop Stalls, etc.	1276
Number of Informed Notices served	9
Number of Informed Notices complied with	9

All cases of slaughtering are now carried out at Stafford Abattoir. I found the following unfit for human consumption, and had same surrendered to me: 5-stone of fish, 518 eggs, 50-lb. ham and bacon, 40 tins of meat, 38 tins of fish, 63 tins of fruit, 108 tins of vegetables, 49 tins of milk and 9-lb. of jam.

(c) Adulteration, etc. This is not an Authority for enforcing the Acts and Regulations referred to under this head.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. The Staffordshire County Council have provided laboratories and carry out such work.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. G. Craddock.